

Summary of Comments – Growth Policy Workshop
October 20, 2010

General Comments

- Don't allow the current growth policy to be diluted; at the very least maintain what exists
- Preserve the reasons people move here (scenery, natural resources, recreation, etc.)
- Decisions made in one area of the Valley effect other areas of the Valley; in favor of having a growth plan because of this.
- Growth policy is of little reference to land use planning.

Specific Suggestions to Consider

- Designate certain areas as being most appropriate for growth, instead of allowing growth all over.
- More restrictions should be placed on waterfront development.
- Develop a policy(s) to create a map(s) showing the location of important wildlife habitat and wildlife distribution throughout the County.
- Direct growth to areas that can accommodate, away from less appropriate areas of the County.
- Identify conflicting goals and policies and strive for more consistency.
- Work toward adopting/implementing a County Transportation Plan
- Each revision period (5 year interval) should have a focus, depending on what issues are most important (i.e. housing, economic growth, etc.); focus revision of growth policy on a particular issue each cycle.
- Protect/maintain the framework for developing a neighborhood plan; possibly make the framework more user friendly.
- In an effort to protect water quality, possibly focus future goal and policy statements toward planning for a regional sewer facility, or expanding existing sewer facilities to accommodate future growth.
- Have additional public input sessions/workshops (like tonight) to get more information from a County citizens.
- Current growth policy is weak on economic development and planning for business stability; future updates to the growth policy should focus on job security and economic predictability.
- Develop stronger water quality standards; current goals and policies lacking, should be improved upon.

- Greater focus needs to be on preserving agricultural resources.
- Growth policy needs to support wildlife habitat and access to public land (through goals and policies).
- Future growth should be directed toward existing service centers.
- Integrate recommendations from the Flathead County Transportation Plan – if adopted?
- Look at developing goals and policies that promote energy self-sufficiency for the Flathead Valley.
- Goals and policies should encourage economic development while retaining the character of communities throughout the Valley.
- Growth policy should focus on educating the public, providing more insight and guidance on the subdivision and zoning process.
- Growth should be discouraged from outlying areas, focused more toward centralized areas with existing services; growth policy should address “fringe development”, if possible.
- Develop goals and policies that incentivize development near existing urban cores.